(c) and (d) State of Andhra Pradesh from time to time has brought to the notice of Central Government the actions of State of Karnataka in Tungbhadra and Pennar basins which according to the State of Andhra Pradesh adversely affected its interests. Government of India has made efforts to address the problems faced by the States including Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu through negotiations in the inter-State meetings.

WHO-UNICEF sponsored study on Water Supply and Sanitation

279. SHRI EKANATHK. THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the WHO-UNICEF sponsored study on the country's water supply and sanitation 200 districts in the country have high fluoride concentration in groundwater, spread over 17 States and affecting a population of some 25 million;

(b) whether it is a fact that West Bengal is reported to be at risk owing to the presence of arsenic in groundwater;

(c) whether the report has recommended enactment of groundwater legislation in all the States; and

(d) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The report of the WHO-UNICEF sponsored study on country's water supply and sanitation recommended that ground water legislation aiming at equity and sustainability in access to ground water and its development needs to be enacted in all States.

(d) The report has been circulated by the Planning Commission to all the State Governments for taking necessary action. The Ministry of Water Resources has already circulated a Model Bill to regulate and control the development of ground water to all State Governments/Union Territories as early as in 1970 and re-circulated it in 1992 and again in 1996 for adoption, So far the State Governments of Andhra pradesh, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Union Territory of Lakshadweep have enacted legislation in this regard.